

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,  
see and see again, but not perceive.  
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see,  
your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly,  
many prophets and holy men longed to see  
what you see, and never saw it; to hear what  
you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of  
the sower. When anyone hears the word of the  
kingdom without understanding, the evil one  
comes and carries off what was sown in his  
heart: this is the man who received the seed  
on the edge of the path. The one who received  
it on patches of rock is the man who hears the  
word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he  
has no root in him, he does not last; let some  
trial come, or some persecution on account of  
the word, and he falls away at once. The one  
who received the seed in thorns is the man who  
hears the word, but the worries of this world  
and the lure of riches choke the word and so he  
produces nothing. And the one who received the  
seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word  
and understands it; he is the one who yields a  
harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now  
sixty, now thirty.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

Today's readings converge in their concern  
that we take time to wonder and reflect on  
the nature of the kingdom of God, its growth  
in the world, and in our own lives.

Despite its brevity, the reading from Isaiah is  
a powerful statement of hope in the ability  
of God's word to foster life and bring about  
growth. As the people of Israel struggled to  
rebuild after the exile Isaiah proclaimed his  
conviction in the power of God's word.

As Christians, how do we maintain our hope  
when the world is in confusion? How can  
we speak of the power of God's word when  
it is often challenged by our experience of  
the world desperate for healing and peace?  
After nearly 2000 years these questions may  
even be more critical for us than they were in  
Paul's time. For Paul the key lies in the image  
of the world and ourselves being involved in  
the painful process of giving birth. Christians  
have already received the gift of the Spirit as  
a foretaste and pledge of what is yet to come.

Jesus' timeless parable of the sower invites  
us to take heart that despite opposition the  
seed of God's kingdom has been planted  
in our world. Opposition, difficulties, and  
misunderstanding are surely present, but the  
growth of the kingdom is assured. Perhaps the  
most pressing question of all is whether we  
have ears to hear, and the faith to believe, that  
the kingdom will take root and grow in our  
world and hearts.



Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 JULY 2023

## FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth give growth.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow  
come down from the heavens and do not return  
without watering the earth, making it yield and  
giving growth to provide seed for the sower  
and bread for the eating, so the word that goes  
from my mouth does not return to me empty,  
without carrying out my will and succeeding in  
what it was sent to do.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

**R.** The seed that falls on good ground  
will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you  
fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims  
over / to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you  
drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with  
showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. /  
Abundance flows in your steps, / in the  
pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows  
covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked  
with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they  
sing. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the  
children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never  
be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed,  
which is waiting for us. The whole creation is  
eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was  
not for any fault on the part of creation that it  
was made unable to attain its purpose, it was  
made so by God; but creation still retains the  
hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to  
decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory

as the children of God. From the beginning till  
now the entire creation, as we know, has been  
groaning in one great act of giving birth; and  
not only creation, but all of us who possess the  
first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly  
as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of  
God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to  
him will live for ever. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but  
such crowds gathered round him that he got  
into a boat and sat there. The people all stood  
on the beach, and he told them many things in  
parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow.  
As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of  
the path, and the birds came and ate them up.  
Others fell on patches of rock where they found  
little soil and sprang up straight away, because  
there was no depth of earth; but as soon as  
the sun came up they were scorched and, not  
having any roots, they withered away. Others  
fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up  
and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and  
produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some  
sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked,  
'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because'  
he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of  
heaven are revealed to you, but they are not  
revealed to them. For anyone who has will be  
given more, and he will have more than enough;  
but for anyone who has not, even what he has  
will be taken away. The reason I talk to them  
in parables is that they look without seeing and  
listen without hearing or understanding. So  
in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being  
fulfilled:

16 July 23  
Wk 15 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.  
**Administration** Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

**Office Hrs:** Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND MASSES** Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am Sun: 5.00pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Wed: 12pm Mass Thur: 9am Mass  
Fri: 12pm Mass

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE** As for me, injustice, I shall behold your face;

**ANTIPHON:** I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**COMMUNION** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, remains in me,

**ANTIPHON:** and I in him, says the Lord.

**May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:**

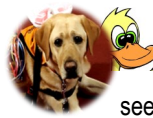
**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fr Lewis Fenton, Sr Janet Cummings RSJ, John Geaney, Peter Sullivan, Harold Ward.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Peter Parsons, Patricia Kennedy(2/7), Wally Warner(2/7), William Barry Davy (25/7), Bridget Teo (29/7).

**DECEASED:** Margaret Peterson, Michael Kenny (Kendal), John Gray, Sr Patricia Bartley rsj, Sister Carole Gibbins rsj, Sr Judith Carney rsm, Maureen Travers, Greg Hiscox, Terry Doherty, Marjie Balfe, Sophie Littlejohns.

**SICK:** Monica Austin, Margaret Doyle, Baby Walker MacAlpine, Sandra Sheedy, John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Sr Gerard Joseph, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Kate Harrison, Terry Dean, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, William Bonner, Graeme Bussell, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Fr Bernie Flood.

### VEENA'S VERSIONS

 **A duck went to the bakery.** He ask the baker: "Hi do you have some seeds?", "No" said the baker. The next day the duck returned to the bakery and ask again: "Hi do you have some seeds?", "No, this is a bakery duck, we don't sell seeds here..." and so the duck kept on going to the bakery every day and asking for seeds. One day the baker had enough. "Listen duck", he said, "We don't sell seeds here and we never will, so stop asking or next time I'll chase you out with a hammer". The duck came back two days later. "Do you have a hammer?" he asked. "No" said the baker, surprised, so the duck said: "And what about seeds?"

### COMING EVENTS:

**4 Aug:** Closing date for St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust (Website: [pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship](http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship))

**29 Aug:** 17 Nov - Mission & Evangelisation

**Oct 15-20:** Events Marriage and Family Week

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS:** BSB 082105

**1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery** Acc No: 001023642 (Diocesan collection)

**2nd Collection - West Tamworth Church Catholic (St Patricks)** Acc No: 001041198

\*\*Direct Debit or EFT donations are preferred for planned giving; however envelopes are still available, please enquire.

**COVID GUIDE:** \* FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED; \*ANTISEPTIC WIPES/SANITISER AVAILABLE

*"In God and for God."*



**MASS TIME:** \*Please note Sunday afternoon Mass time is 5 pm.

\* Friday mass time is now 12 noon.

**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY:** Pope Francis has declared Sunday 23 July 2023 as the day we acknowledge the enormous contribution of, and celebrate the blessings given to us by our grandparents and the elderly. The Holy Father Francis has also granted a plenary indulgence for those who attend mass. The indulgence is subject to the usual conditions of sacramental Confession, reception of the Eucharist, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. This indulgence extends to those who dedicate significant time to visit—either in person or by virtual means of communication—their elderly brothers and sisters who are in need or facing difficulties, such as the sick, abandoned, and those with disabilities. For those unable to leave their homes due to serious reasons, spiritual participation in Mass celebrated for the World Day through prayer, offering their sufferings, and joining in the broadcasts of the People's various celebrations will also grant them the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

**SAVE CALVARY HOSPITAL:** The ACT Government has announced the compulsory acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital in Canberra. You can support this taskforce by signing the petition 'Save Calvary' (<https://www.savecalvary.com.au/>).

**DIOCESAN VIEWPOINT MAGAZINE:** Please see the below link for the latest edition of Catholic Viewpoint to view in Flipbook Magazine style. The printable PDF version is also included via email. [Catholic Viewpoint – Issue 10 – April – June 2023](#)

**CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** • Bread from Heaven: the charity feeding Sydney (p12-13); • Synod on Synodality delegates announced (p1); • PNG Cardinal Ribat visits Sydney (4-5)

### PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son,  
You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest,  
prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice,  
taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule.  
We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked  
with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese.  
May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a  
compassionate heart and firm resolve, and a person of joy and peace, who desires  
above all to do Your will.

We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary,  
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary,  
and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen



### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 16/7/23

**Vigil:** R Sr Kathryn N Pullman  
**9am Sun:** R S Brown R Paull  
**5.00pm Sun:** R M Murray \*\*D Bearman/Volunteer  
**Counting Team** S Brown, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 21/7 M Vella, A Jones  
**Altar Linen:** M Vella

### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 23/7/23

**Vigil:** R C Ledwos Di Bolitho  
**9am Sun:** R M Holley A Sartori  
**5.00pm Sun:** R M Murray D Bearman  
**Counting Team** A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 28/7 S Brown, V Griffiths  
**Altar Linen:** E Smyth

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

